

South Central Emergency Response Program (SCERP)

Quarter Report: January-March, 2014



Cash for work beneficiaries clearing Marerey feeder road in Afgoye District, Lower Shabelle Region



Cash for work beneficiaries carrying bags full of sand for construction of Baarey River embankments in Jowhar District, M.Shabelle Region

COUNTRY CONTACT		HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	PROJECT SUMMARY	
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			Start Date	July 19, 2013
			End Date	July 18, 2014
			Report Date	April 30, 2014
			Total Award	\$1, 958, 238

Executive Summary

Through Market Infrastructure Rehabilitation, New Livelihoods Development and Temporary Employment, SCERP is working to restore sustainable livelihoods through rehabilitating local economies and helping IDPs and other vulnerable populations to live safe, secure and just lives. Mercy Corps interventions minimize extreme price fluctuations in local and imported commodities and foodstuffs by injecting cash into the local economy through cash for work (CfW) approach which improves household incomes, promotes local trade, and restores market equilibrium. Mercy Corps has helped communities develop the capacity to withstand future shocks through the creation of livelihoods and reconstruction of essential infrastructure in South Central Somalia.

During this quarter, the program has engaged 705 beneficiaries through Cash for Work (CfW) in the rehabilitation of irrigation canals, river embankment and feeder road clearance in Lower Juba, Middle & Lower Shabelle, Galmudug and Galgaduud Regions. These CfW activities have injected cash into the local economies and enhanced purchasing power of individual household's basic needs. A total of USD 72,200 was transferred to 705 household beneficiaries selected through respective Village Relief Committees (VRC) following Mercy Corps set criteria. A total of 191 women and 514 men benefited by performing jobs such as clearing vegetation cover, collecting sand using wheelbarrows, and filling sand bags. In addition, the program handed over 486 CfW tools used for rehabilitation of irrigation canals and clearance of feeder roads and river embankments to respective VRCs for future use following the completion of the activities. In addition, three GBV and one child protection trainings and four sensitization meetings were conducted during the quarter under the protection sector.




Program Overview

The program supports both IDP camps and host communities with the latter emphasis on rural populations, mainly in the riverine areas by engaging them through CfW activities for short term periods. The program supports GBV survivors with the clinical management of rape, providing them with dignity kits, nutritional support, and psychosocial support in the IDP camps. In a holistic manner, SCERP is working alongside communities to support pre-existing protection mechanisms and enhance inclusive approaches and responses to GBV that encourages reporting and access to services for survivors. Mercy Corps does this by supporting local groups who are trained in counseling and trauma support as well as how to effectively advocate for protection issues within IDP camps. GBV survivors also receive referral service support in an effort to improve the clinical management of rape and violence and ongoing psychosocial and legal support. Mercy Corps has also integrated survivors into skill development programs building confidence and providing survivors with secure and dignified livelihoods

Sub-Sector 1.1: Market System Rehabilitation




Activity 1: Rehabilitation of Irrigation Canal

Two kilometers of irrigation canals were rehabilitated in Galwar & Muryale villages of Afgoye & Balcad Districts in the Lower & Middle Shabelle Region. The cash for work activity involved the digging of the canal, removal of debris and sand, and the clearing of vegetation that has grown into the canal. The irrigation canals supply water to small-scale farms producing vegetables and other crops. According to FEWSNET, food insecurity in Middle and Lower Shabelle is likely to reach crisis (IPC Phase 3) as a result of increased conflict in the region, erratic rainfall from April to June, and increased food prices that are likely to affect a larger area in Somalia. Members of these communities are now pumping water from the river to irrigate their fields sustaining agriculture production in these regions.

		
Before rehabilitation of one km of Galwar irrigation canal in Afgoye, Lower Shabelle Region	During rehabilitation of one km of Galwar irrigation canal in Afgoye, Lower Shabelle Region	After rehabilitation of one km of Galwar irrigation canal in Afgoye, Lower Shabelle Region




Activity 2: Rehabilitation of River Embankments

A total of 1.2 km of river embankment was rehabilitated in Baarey village, Afgoye district Lower Shabelle Region. The rehabilitation/construction work carried out by 60 women and 105 men through CfW included: filling sandbags, drying vegetation and clay to construct the eroded banks of the river, and stacking the sand bags on the river bank to prevent further flooding into the farms and homes of the riverine communities. The embankment ridges were constructed to 1.5 m height and base width of 1.5m to avert loss of productive assets and ensure disaster risk reduction mechanism (DRR) to save many hectares of land from flooding and allowing continuous cropping in the district. Riverine communities experienced recurring natural disasters that devastated their productive assets and washed away their homes over the years. The rehabilitated embankments will therefore deter the effects of floods and mitigate diseases that would have further aggravated conditions.

		
Before rehabilitation of 1.2 km river embankment in Baarey village, Afgoye District, Lower Shabelle Region	During the rehabilitation of 1.2 km river embankment in Baarey village Afgoye District	After the embankment of 1.2 km of river in Baarey village, Afgoye District

Activity 3: Feeder Road Clearance

Twenty kilometers of market access roads (Marerey and Raqayle feeder roads) were cleared to improve movement of goods to main villages and town centers in Lower and Middle Shabelle Regions for villages in the two different districts of Afgoye and Jowhar through cash for work activities. The roads are of high importance as they are linking various villages while easing transportation of agricultural products from the farms. 210 CFW beneficiaries (64 female and 146 male) were selected to take part in the rehabilitation work of clearing two feeder roads each 10 km long following the set standard of Mercy Corps selection criteria in consultation with the village relief committees. Each household was represented by one person

		
Before rehabilitation of Marerey feeder road in Afgoye district, Lower Shabelle Region	During rehabilitation of Marerey feeder road in Afgoye district	Completed Marerey feeder road in Afgoye district

in the CFW activities. Women-headed households and other vulnerable groups were given priority in the beneficiary selection.

Sub-sector 1.2: New Livelihood

Activity 1: Establishment and training of cooperative members for soap production

The third skill training with eight member teams for soap production has begun in Mogadishu in March 2014 with the other two training groups remaining to be established soon in Kismayu and Galkacyo. Provision of cash grants worth \$500 are to be disbursed in April to the first two cooperative groups trained for laundry soap production in the previous quarters, to strength and improve the capacity of the cooperative groups to produce and supply more product.

		
Trainees in a practical session of preparing soap by demonstration in Gahey FES center in Mogadishu	Trainees practicing how to cut soap during the soap making skill training session in Mogadishu	Trainees arranging sliced piece of soap for packaging

Sub-Sector 1.4: Temporary Employment

During the quarter, the program engaged 705 CfW household beneficiaries through rehabilitation of two kilometer irrigation canals, 1 km of river embankment, and 20 km of feeder road clearance. The program engaged 330 household beneficiaries (67 female & 263 male) for de-silting and rehabilitation of irrigation canals in Galwar & Muryale villages in Afgoye & Balcad districts respectively, 165 beneficiaries (60 female & 105 male) took part in the construction/rehabilitation of river embankments in Baarey village Afgoye district of Lower Shabelle Region.

210 others participated in 20 km of feeder road clearance (Marerey & Raqayle villages) in Afgoye and Jowhar districts. Priority was given to female-headed households and they were given culturally appropriate tasks such as using wheelbarrows to collect sand and perform bush clearing work. Each beneficiary received an average USD 102 by the of end of twenty working days that improves their family livelihood to a certain period and increases the village economy on the other side. A total of 486

CFW tools comprising of 30 wheelbarrows, 130 shovels, 116 pick axes, 50 hoes, 40 rakes, 80 traditional axes, 20 hammers and 20 crow bars were distributed to beneficiaries and handed over to respective VRCs of each villages after completing the activities.

Sub-Sector 2.1: Gender-Based-Violence Prevention and Response

Activity 1: Conduct GBV trainings

The program conducted five GBV trainings for 93 (57 female & 36 male) community elders, including women, and community police in Mogadishu & Galkacyo for the reporting quarter. Participants were trained on basic knowledge on forms of GBV, consequences, prevention and response to GBV, and identification and reporting of GBV/SGBV. The trainees are spearheading the sensitization and awareness campaigns carried out in the camps to increase GBV reporting among survivors.

Activity 2: Community Sensitization on GBV and Child Protection

During the quarter, four GBV/child protection awareness and sensitization sessions were held for 160 (100 female & 60 male) participants from four IDP camps (Bardhere, Ubane, Gurban and Daacad IDP camps) Hodan district in Mogadishu. These sessions provided communities with a better understanding of GBV prevention and response, sexual exploitation and abuse, and domestic violence. 100 rape whistles were later distributed to the female participants for use during any forced violence against women by alerting and seeking help from the neighbors and public to come for rescue.



Participants attending a four-day sensitization meetings on awareness raising about GBV protection in Bardhere IDP camp in Mogadishu

Three GBV survivors were identified through the support groups during the reporting quarter and provided with clinical management of rape and psychosocial support including the provision of nutritional support and dignity kits. They were then referred to Hawo-Tako medical center for further checkup and psycho-social counseling.

Sub-Sector 2.2: Child Protection

Activity 1: Conduct child protection training

The program conducted three child protection trainings in this reporting quarter and sixty (60) community members (40 female and 20 male) including sheikhs, elders and women/youth group representatives trained on child protection and advocacy on prevention and response to violence against children, basic psycho-social support and counseling to children, child friendly spaces, and support to children with disabilities. These trainees formed Child



Child protection participants in Abudwak district, Galgadud Region

Friendly Spaces (CFS) committees to focus on child protection in their communities, where the cohesive fabric has been weakened by decades of conflict, and to develop a shared social trust and responsibility for unattended children. The committees are working to raise awareness about the importance of

protecting children and also are leading the identification and creation of child friendly spaces, which provide safe places for children to gather and play.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The program team regularly produces activity monitoring reports (AMR) during every field visit. Further, the program team conducts field and need assessments before the start of every activity in each quarter to avoid duplication of roles with other humanitarian actors in the region. In an effort of ensuring high quality CfW program activities, targeted literate youth are employed as supervisors through CfW, to support daily monitoring of activities. This is not only ensuring quality but has also resulted in positive engagement of more than 100 youth for a period of 20 days per activity. The youth supervisors are working closely under Mercy Corps program staff supervision.

Coordination

The program team operates closely with other humanitarian actors in the program implementation areas and the local administrations in all the villages before undertaking activities. Project outcome and data are always shared with food security and protection clusters and the team has also participated in sector and cluster meetings/workshops concerning the need gaps of the beneficiaries, challenges and cluster reporting to ensure quality delivery of work regarding humanitarian interventions carried out by all cluster members.

Challenges/Conclusions

There have been an increasing number of suicide bombings, IEDs and targeted killings in the last couple of months mostly in the South, but this has not had much effect on the implementation of activities. The coming quarter will focus majorly on establishment of child friendly centers and market rehabilitation and completion of the remaining activities for soap production skill trainings, distribution of cash grants, and working with communities on protection through GBV/CPT trainings and forums.

In addition, the 25-district military offensive by SNAF/AMISOM in Somalia to recover Al-Shabaab controlled areas has significantly impacted the regions of Bakool, Hiraan, and Lower and Middle Shabelle, causing massive displacement and disruption of livelihoods and agriculture, particularly in areas along the Shabelle River. According to the UN, an estimated number of three million people live in the districts and regions undergoing the military offensive and an estimated 12,000 people were temporarily displaced between March 17th and 22nd. Since the attack launched in March on Al-Shabaab bases in Bullo Marer and Qoryoole towns in Lower Shabelle, there have been reports of massive displacement and movement away from the affected towns to neighboring areas (OCHA Humanitarian impact of military operation/26 March 2014). Heavy fighting has been reported in Qoryoole and an estimated 900 people from Baraawe town in Lower Shabelle arrived in Jilib in Lower Juba to avoid being caught up in conflict. The Somalia government is distributing food to the displaced persons and those returning back to Qoryoole to avoid further displacement.

Furthermore, Mogadishu IDP camps are experiencing more challenges with the increasing number of people arriving in Mogadishu who have been recently deported from Saudi Arabia and now Kenya. IOM, based in the Mogadishu airport, is registering the deportees from Saudi Arabia and has reported a significant number of unaccompanied children under the age of 15. There is growing need for food, water, protection and shelter for these deportees. The security in the camps is likely to deteriorate with this massive influx. With a strong presence in Mogadishu, additional funding is required for Mercy Corps to respond to this disaster.